

Message Text

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14

ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05

TRSE-00 SAJ-01 ERDA-05 OES-03 OMB-01 NRC-05 /079 W

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R 101622Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6263

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

CNO WASHDC

USCINCEUR

COMSIXTHFLT

COMFAIRMED NAPLES

COMNAVSEASYS COM WASHDC

CINCUSNAVEUR

COMSUBGRU EIGHT NAPLES

CINCLANTFLT

USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 3932

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MNUC, IT

SUBJECT: NUCLEAR POWERED WARSHIP (NPW) VISITS TO MEDITERRANEAN

REF: ROME 3251, DTG 271720Z FEB 76 AND PREVIOUS

1. IN DISCUSSION MARCH 10 AT MFA NATO OFFICE, EMBOFF INFORMED
THAT SUBSTANCE OF DCM'S MEETING WITH DIRECTOR GENERAL POLITI-
CAL AFFAIRS ON FEBRUARY 26 HAD BEEN CONVEYED TO FOREIGN MIN-
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ISTER RUMOR. RUMOR WAS REPORTED IN AGREEMENT WITH OUR GENERAL

POSITION ESCHEWING THE DIFFERENTIATION OF NAVAL VESSELS BY MODE OF PROPULSION. HOWEVER, THE FOREIGN MINISTER INDICATED HE THOUGHT THE PRIME MINISTER SHOULD BE MADE AWARE OF THE COMING DEPLOYMENT OF THE NIMITZ GROUP. IN ANY CASE, THE MFA WOULD, ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE, RESPOND FAVORABLY TO INDIVIDUAL REQUESTS FOR PORT VISITS OF NPW'S. ANY OBSTACLES THAT MAY APPEAR, HE SUGGESTED, MAY IN FACT ORIGINATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, WHICH, ACCORDING TO HIS INFORMATION, AS OF LAST WEEK HAD NOT BEEN INFORMED BY THE ITALIAN NAVY OF THE PLANNED NPW VISITS.

2. WE INTERPRET THE PRESENT WAFFLE (BARRING AN UNEXPECTED UNFAVORABLE REACTION FROM THE PRIME MINISTER) AS CONCURRENCE IN PRINCIPLE. OF COURSE, ALL U.S. SHIP VISITS TO ITALIAN PORTS ARE NOTIFIED IN ADVANCE AND ARE SUBJECT TO (GENERALLY PROFORMA) APPROVAL ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS. THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE NIMITZ GROUP WILL COME AT A TIME OF PARTICULAR POLITICAL STRAIN IN ITALY WHEN THE IMPACT OF VARIOUS DOMESTIC CRISES MAY REQUIRE GREATER FLEXIBILITY IN PORT VISIT PLANNING TO ACCOMMODATE THE SHIFTING SENSITIVITIES OF THE GOI. IN THE MEANWHILE, WE WILL BE TALKING WITH THE ITALIAN NAVY AND THE DEFENSE STAFF SEEKING TO ASSURE THAT NO IMPEDIMENTS EMERGE FROM THAT QUARTER. VOLPE

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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04 MAY 2006

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